

**ABSTRACT**

A modular jack for receiving complimentary plugs. The jack comprises a ground shield, a dielectric housing, a shield insert, a switching block, a circuit board sub-assembly, a plurality of terminal contacts, and a plurality of switching contacts. The ground shield has a plug receiving face that is open to expose a plug receiving cavity and is adapted to receive a complimentary plug. The ground shield also has a mounting face which defines grounding springs that extend inward towards the plurality of switching contacts. Portions of some of the terminal contacts extend in cantilever fashion into the plug receiving cavity while portions of some the terminal contacts extend through the ground shield forming terminal posts. A number of the terminal contacts have contact switching pads upon which mating portions of the switching contacts rest. When a plug having a switching protrusion on its lower front surface is inserted in the plug receiving cavity, the switching block slides towards the ground shield mounting face lifting the mating portions of the switching contacts off the contact switching pads until they touch the ground springs extending from the ground shield mounting face.